



A Message from the Chief Environmental Health Officer, CAPT Michael Welch

I hope you enjoy this brochure for the Environmental Health Officers of the Commissioned Corps, United States Public Health Service. As one of the 11 PHS categories, EHOs serve in a number of challenging assignments throughout this Nation.

The environmental health profession has evolved from primarily general practitioners to include highly specialized areas of expertise such as Industrial Hygienists, Epidemiologists, Consumer Safety Officers, Health Physicists, Injury Prevention Specialists, Emergency Response Coordinators and Hazardous Material Specialists. The practice of environmental health has developed into a cadre of committed public health professionals dedicated to public service and to the improvement of the health of our nation. As public health leaders our primary focus should be on the reduction and elimination of public health risk factors in the working and living environments. Our knowledge, skills and abilities are to be used daily to protect and improve the health and welfare of all people. The skills and abilities of Environmental Health Officers are in demand in a varied array of environments and duty stations. From isolated assignments in Alaska and the Southwestern United States to deployments at the Olympics, National Boy Scout Jamboree, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as training missions in South America and the Pacific islands. Disease outbreaks related to food-borne illness, water-borne and vector-borne disease, plague, rocky mountain spotted fever and hantavirus continually challenge our environmental health officers to maintain the highest level of knowledge, skills and abilities. We continue to serve as a highly skilled group of public health practitioners committed to preventing injury and illness throughout our country and the world.

In the near future, the global public health infrastructure must be further strengthened with qualified officers capable of serving at the local, regional, national or international levels. It will be imperative that the EHO component of the PHS work to maintain mission critical public health services while retaining the capability to respond to emergency and disaster events.

CAPT Michael Welch, RS, MSEH
Chief Environmental Health Officer
US Public Health Service

What Are Some of the Benefits?

Noncontributory retirement based on a 20 to 30-year career, Social Security coverage, non-contributory medical care at uniformed service facilities, noncontributory medical care for dependents at uniformed services facilities or shared cost care in the private sector, life insurance, survivor benefits, disability benefits, tax-deferred contributory investment program, burial allowances, Veteran's Administration benefits, use of military commissaries and exchanges, and reimbursement of travel expenses related to assignment.

Internet Resources

USPHS Commissioned Corps

<http://www.usphs.gov>

Commissioned Corps Management Information System

<http://dcp.psc.gov>

EHO Professional Advisory Committee

<http://ehopac.org>

Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS

<http://www.coausphs.org>

USPHS Commissioned Corps – Agencies and Programs

<http://www.usphs.gov/aboutus/agencies.aspx>

How Can I Apply?

The following website includes the forms and instructions that are needed to start your active duty application: <http://www.usphs.gov/applynow>

Please note that the application process to be called to active duty in the Commissioned Corps of the PHS is a **dual process**. You must apply for a commission in the PHS, and you must also apply for jobs at Agencies or with Programs that accept PHS officers for assignments. Sign up for the Commissioned Corps LISTSERVE to receive job vacancy announcements.

http://dcp.psc.gov/message_signup.aspx

For Additional Information Contact

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Environmental Health Officers

of the U.S. Public Health Service



“Protecting, Promoting and Advancing the Health and Safety of the Nation”

What is an Environmental Health Officer?

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) serve in several U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) agencies providing basic environmental health services related to food, water and waste; and more specialized services in areas of injury prevention and institutional environmental health; and highly specialized services in areas such as public health emergency preparedness, industrial hygiene, health physics and hazardous waste. PHS EHOs carry out their responsibilities by performing a wide variety of activities, including surveys, investigations, research, teaching and training, consumer education, technical assistance, regulatory compliance, and codes and standards development. Each agency is actively involved in emergency preparedness and EHOs play an integral role in emergency response. These activities are carried out by a cadre of approximately 375 EHOs assigned to the agencies and programs identified in this brochure.

In What Subject Areas do PHS Officers Specialize?

Air and Water Pollution; Communicable Disease Control; Emergency Preparedness/Response; Food and Drug Safety; Hazardous Materials Management; Health Care Administration; Injury Prevention; Industrial Hygiene; Institutional Environmental Health; Interstate Travel Sanitation; Occupational Safety; Radiological Health; Recreational Facilities; Solid Waste Management; Vector Control; Zoonotic Disease Control

What are the Required Qualifications to become an EHO?

A candidate must possess a qualifying degree or a degree and professional certification in one of the following:

- a. A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in environmental health that is accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council,
<http://www.ehacoffice.org>;
- b. A bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in the curricular areas of industrial hygiene, safety, or health physics that is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology,
<http://www.abet.org>;
- c. A master's or doctoral degree with a specialization in environmental health, occupational health, or industrial hygiene from a school of public health that is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health,
<http://www.ceph.org>;
- d. A bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in any field and one of the following:
Certification as an Industrial Hygienist (CIH) by the American Board of Industrial Hygiene,
<http://www.abih.org/>;
Certification as an Health Physicist (CHP) by the American Board of Health Physics,
<http://www.hps1.org/aaahp/>.

Additional Information

For information and considerations regarding appointment boards and appointment standards please consult the **Division of Commissioned Personnel, Commissioned Corps Personnel Manual**, at http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/CCI2_3_1_01.pdf

Candidates must be a U.S. citizen, generally under 44 years of age, and must meet medical requirements including height and weight standards. Officer is in probationary status during the first three years of active duty.

Civil Service (non-commissioned) Environmental Health positions are available throughout the agencies/programs

listed to the right. Specific qualifications and benefits for those positions are described within the specific job announcement.

Where do PHS EHOs Work?

Agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry [www.atsdr.cdc.gov]
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov]
- Health Resources and Services Administration [www.hrsa.gov]
- Indian Health Service [www.ihs.gov]
- National Institutes of Health [www.nih.gov]
- The Food and Drug Administration [www.fda.gov]

Other Agencies/Programs

- Bureau of Prisons [www.bop.gov]
- Environmental Protection Agency [www.epa.gov]
- National Park Service [www.nps.gov]
- U.S. Coast Guard [www.uscg.mil]
- USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service [www.usda.gov]

